Discontinuation of Cholera Inoculation

*48. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to a press report which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated 10th April, 1988 to the effect that an expert committee of immunologists and other medical scientists has recommended the discontinuation of mass inoculation against Cholera;

(b) whether the committee has stated that neither the midicine prevents an outbreak of cholera nor can it save the life of the affected persons;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to invent an alternative vaccine against the dreaded disease Cholera?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d) The Government has seen the press report which appeared in the 'Indian Express dated 10-4-1988.

A meeting of the Group of Experts was held at New Delhi on 29-1-1988 to review the efficacy of cholera-vaccine and its use in natural calamities such as floods and drought and routine public health practices. The Group recommended as under:

—routine anticipatory cholera inoculation in public health practice is of little use and be discontinued.

—Cholera vaccination is not recommended to combat the epidemic if it had occurred since neither contains the spread of disease nor saves the lives of affected persons and districts the attention and resources of health authorities from much needed and effective environmental control measures including health education;

—cholera vaccination facilities can continue to be provided on demand on a voluntary basis at all hospitals and health centres;

—as an adjunct to the other important control measures, cholera inoculation, if resources permit, could be undertaken, in two doses schedule, if the population threatened is limited and it is feasible to administer vaccine to nearly all the threatened persons and particularly wherever there is disruption of normal living and breakdown of environmental provisions such as in refugee camps or labour camps at construction sites.

The Scientists all over the World have been trying to develop a more effective vaccine against Cholera. In the past Cholera toxoid was used for control trial but did not show the satisfactory benefit. A controlled field trial of oral wholesale/B Sub-Unit has been undertaken in the past. The result has been encouraging.

Some of the other studies are at present in the experimental stage.

However, drugs used in the treatment of specific cases of acute diarrhoeal diseases including cholera, are available indigenously in addition to rehydration therapy. ORS packets are made available through Village Health Guides, Primary Health Centres/Hospitals, etc.

Shortage of Teachers etc. in Navodaya Vidyalayas

*49. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR-Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that afudents of Navodaya Vidyalayas are not able to receive proper education due

to the shortage of teachers and of proper facilities;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to fill up the vacancies of teachers in Navodaya Vidyalayas and to provide the minimum facilities to these Vidyalayas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In view of the fact that the Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme is at its formative stage, that the Vidyalayas are mostly located in buildings offered by the State/Union Territories Governments temporarily and that the teachers are being recruited initially on deputation basis only, certain shortages in the number of teachers and in the facilities do crop up in a few cases. However, all possible immediate remedial measures are being taken to ensure that the children receive proper education.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Cargo support to the National Liners and Shipping Companies

*50. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for extending 40 per cent of cargo support to the national liners and shipping companies; and

(b) if so, by when this is likely to come into operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. No definite time schedule can, however, be indicated as to when it will come into operation.

National policy on culture

*51. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any proposal from the Asom Sahitya Sabha to evolve a national policy on culture; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Apollo group of hospitals in Delhi

*52. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given permission to the Delhi Administration for promoting a joint venture company with the Apollo Group of Hospitals in Delhi for the setting up of a 600-bedded super-speciality hospital;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government are aware that a large number of private clinics/hospitals have come up during the last few years in Delhi which charge exorbitant sums from patients;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to enforce some laws for regulating such private clinics/hospitals and if not, the reasons therefor; and